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ABSTRACT

Thirteen books and articles, published between 1977 and 1982, and cited in "Resources in Education" and "Current Index to Journals in Education" are listed in this annotated bibliography for educators and the general public. The citations provide theory, ideas, and resources for character education in elementary and secondary schools. A brief section at the beginning describes the "character" that advocates of character education wish to develop in students. Topics include: goals defined by the California School Board's Task Force on Character Education; common questions related to character education; and methods for developing curricula that teach self-discipline, responsibility, and values with emphasis on legal, moral, and citizenship education. In addition to bibliographic information and the brief annotation, ERIC accession numbers are provided. (LH)

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CHARACTER EDUCATION

Prepared by the SMERC Information Center
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Educators and citizens might react negatively to the idea of "Character Education" as a new thrust for the schools, for the term may conjure up the free-and-easy "values" experiments of the 1960s or, conversely, authoritarian systems forcing children into mindless obedience. Today's advocates of Character Education seek to avoid either extreme. They describe the "character" that they wish to develop in students in some of the following terms: self-discipline, ability to make decisions, personal integrity and responsibility, positive self concept, knowledgeable and active citizenship, respect and compassion for others, and concern for the environment. The six goals defined by the California School Boards Task Force on Character Education may be summarized, briefly, as: responsible decision making and personal accountability; respect for law; understanding of democratic processes; respect for diversity; positive self image; and lifelong interest in the well being of others. A complete copy of the goals may be found on page 4 of the June-August, 1982, issue of California School Boards--a theme issue on Character Education which includes articles on many programs in California districts. Today's programs emphasize the use of discussion, student participation activities, and adult role modeling in the teaching of character and responsibility.

The following citations provide theory, ideas, and resources for Character Education, K-12. These materials are either education journal articles or ERIC microfiche documents (ED numbers). San Mateo County educators may order up to 10 microfiche and 20 pages of photocopy at no charge. Simply call the SMERC Information Center, 363-5447.

"The Case for Character Education." Del Rydquist, California School Boards, June-August 1982, p6-9. (4 pp)

A K-12 program in Modesto consisting of competency based education, student conduct codes, and character/citizenship instruction.

Character Education: Some Questions and Answers. Kentucky State Department of Education, 1977. (ED 159 107; 1 microfiche)

Planning, implementation, and evaluation guidelines, K-12.

Developing Schools that Teach Self Discipline. William W. Wayson, 1980. (ED 196 169; 2 microfiche)

An inservice course for K-12 educators on creating a climate of self-discipline in the school.

"Enhancing Adolescent Responsibility--The Fourth "R." John R. Rowe, High School Journal, March 1981, p249-56. (8 pp)

Discusses teaching responsibility through student participation, adult role modeling, and curriculum. Curriculum models are cited.

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Lesson Plans in Law-Related Education. Utah State Office of Education, 1980. (ED 194 425; 2 microfiche)

Interdisciplinary lesson plans for legal and values education, K-6, emphasizing critical thinking and decision making by students.

Responsiblity Education Handbook. Illinois State Office of Education, 1978. (ED 151 267; 1 microfiche)

Ideas, resources, and program descriptions, K-12.

"The Revival of Moral Education." Raymond English, American Education, January-February 1982, p4-12. (9 pp)

Trends in moral education; legal issues; character/citizenship objectives.

"Rights, Respect, Responsibility: Those 3 R's Are Important, Too." James L. Olivero, THRUST for Educational Leadership, January 1979, p8-10. (3 pp)

Suggests that school climate can be improved and conflict reduced if student stress is alleviated, learning celebrated, and self-discipline taught. Includes project ideas in each of these areas.

Teaching Children to Care. Dorothy Koback, ed., Evansville (Indiana) School of Education, 1981. (ED 212 363; 1 microfiche)

Articles on ethical concern, altruism, cooperation, character education, and responsibility. Instructional resources, especially for the K-6 level.

The Teaching of Values: An Instructional Guide. Los Angeles City Schools, 1978. (ED 171 611; 2 microfiche)

Graded instructional activities and resources (K-12) for teaching about integrity, courage, responsibility, justice, reverence, love, and respect for law and order.

"A "Thinking" Approach to Teaching Responsibility." R.A. Pendergrass, The Clearing House, October 1982, p90-2. (3 pp)

Discusses the learning benefits of teaching students to be responsible and presents a decision making model taught to K-8 children.

Toward Self-Discipline: A Guide for Parents and Educators. Robert Gilstrap, ed., Association for Childhood Education International, 1981. (ED 201 405; 1 microfiche)

Articles on the roles of parents, educators, and the community in developing self-discipline in children.

Words Into Actions: A Classroom Guide to Children's Citizenship Education. Joseph J. D'Amico and Others, Research for Better Schools, Inc., 1980. (ED 184 915; 1 microfiche)

Theory, guidelines, and sample interdisciplinary lessons for an active approach to citizenship education, K-12.